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## ASSOCIATE ENGINEER MEMBERS, ROLE OF THE

### Background

The concept of associate engineer members of the Board was discussed at the August 1994 retreat. The engineer members of the State Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners suggested that three members of the engineering profession, recommended by the appropriate society, be appointed by the Governor to serve as associate engineer members. These members would have qualifications equal to or greater than those of Board members.

The associate engineer members would:

- assist Board members in review of applications, with the final determination made by the Board members;
- assist Board members in the periodic review and analysis of examination procedures;
- assist in giving the Fundamentals of Engineering and Principles and Practice of Engineering examinations;
- assist the Board in liaison with the Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers and Consulting Engineers of Tennessee;
- assist the legal staff with analysis of complaints and negotiated settlements with registrants;
- provide a "pool" from which future engineer Board members might be chosen.

The need for the additional engineering input into the licensure process was driven by the large number of applications for engineering registration in Tennessee (>800 per year), the delays in reviewing applications due to the work load on the three engineer Board members, the licensure issues which were not being addressed by the engineer members of the Board (NAFTA, examination changes, references, etc.) and the need for diversity of discipline representation on the Board.

In 1995, the registration law was changed to add TCA, Section 62-2-201(c), which provides for the appointment of three associate engineer members appointed by the Governor. In TCA, Section 62-2-201(c)(6), the associate engineer members are to "assist the Board with routine matters and responsibilities as requested by the board. Associate engineer members shall attend board meetings, committee meetings and other board functions only as required by the board." In TCA, Section 62-2-201(c)(7), associate engineer members are to "render technical assistance to the board and staff as authorized by the board."

### Associate Engineer Member Activities:

As associate engineer members of the Board, these appointees will function at the will and pleasure of the Board. Generally, the associate engineer members will assist the engineer members of the Board [as requested by the Board members] in the following areas:

1. review of applications for registration, with final recommendation for registration by engineer Board members;
2. analyze education and experience records of applicants who are graduates of non-ABET accredited and recommend action to the engineer Board members;
3. assist the Board legal staff in complaint investigation;
4. analyze standard of care/practice issues such as policies on working drawings/shop drawings consistency among code enforcement agencies in requiring sealed plans;
5. evaluate continuing professional competence compliance by engineer registrants by participating in the random audits;
6. other activities which support the engineer Board members.

Associate engineer members will be expected to attend committee meetings and Board meetings, as required by the engineer members of the Board. Expenses incurred will be reimbursed at the same rate as Board members. Attendance of the associate engineer members at regional/national NCEES meetings will be at the discretion of the Board, based on the recommendation of the engineer Board members.

Adopted 7-25-96